



Department of Lands

Hume & Hovell Walking Track

Lankeys Creek
to Woomargama

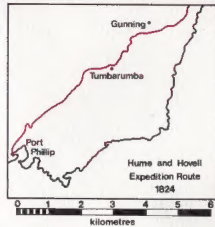


Concept

The development of the Hume and Hovell Walking Track is one of the most significant recreational projects ever undertaken by the Department of Lands and is the Department's principal contribution to the 1988 Bicentennial Celebrations.

The Track follows as closely as is practical the route followed by the explorers, Hamilton Hume and William Hovell, in the spring and summer of 1824-25. As well as giving access to a range of recreational opportunities the track provides a living monument to two of the nation's most important explorers.

The route traverses a variety of topography, vegetation and land use as well as numerous points of historic interest. For the serious walker the completed track offers a twenty day trek. In addition, the design provides for half day, one day and weekend walks suitable for the whole family. Although the basic activity associated with the track is walking, there are opportunities for a range of resource-based recreational pursuits including swimming, camping, nature study, fishing, photography, wildlife observation and historical appreciation.



Hume and Hovell Walking Track

Hume and Hovell's original route and campsites distance

sealed road

dirt road

camping

gate

toilets

pit toilet

fireplace

electric b-b-q



Remember

- This section of track may be closed during the bushfire danger period and will be closed when affected by a total fire ban
- Extinguish campfires thoroughly with water before leaving campsite
- Remain on the marked track or you may be trespassing
- Leave gates as you find them
- Do not carry firearms or hunting equipment
- Appreciate native animals from a distance
- Only use the fireplaces provided



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Forestry Commission of N.S.W.

The Department of Lands wishes to acknowledge the support and assistance provided by the Forestry Commission in the establishment of this section of the Track.

Lankeys Creek to Woomargama

The section of the Hume and Hovell Walking Track from Lankeys Creek to Samuel Bollard Trackhead, Woomargama provides a 56 kilometre, 2 to 3 day walk. There is an intermediate campsite at Tin Mines with pit toilets, fireplaces and creek water available. As always, it is advisable to carry water for each day's walk, however, during drier periods the supply at this campsite may not be reliable in which case it would be necessary to carry additional water.

Lankeys Creek campsite is located on the Holbrook-Jingellic Road, 16 kilometres north of Jingellic and 38 kilometres south-east of Holbrook. Parking, pit toilets, fireplaces and creek water are available.

Samuel Bollard Trackhead is located on the Hume Highway at Woomargama, 13 kilometres south of Holbrook and 50 kilometres north of Albury. Facilities include toilets, parking and electric barbecues. Camping is not permitted. Accommodation is available at the Woomargama Village Hotel-Motel. The proprietors will give special attention to track users but prior arrangements should be made (tel. (060) 20 5322).

At present the walking track terminates at Woomargama and therefore the Samuel Board Trackhead will be the starting and finishing location for people walking the entire route. The total distance from Yass Junction Railway Station to Woomargama is 372 kilometres. Depending upon the size of the party and its walking pace, 15 to 25 days would be required to complete the track.

For people planning to use public transport, V-Line coaches have daily services between Canberra and Wodonga and a pick-up or set-down at Woomargama can be readily arranged. Booking and timetable information can be obtained by ringing Melbourne (03) 620 0771, Wodonga (060) 55 8165, or Canberra (062) 47 6355.

The Track between Lankeys Creek and Woomargama follows Crown roads and firetrails through Woomargama State Forest. The principal features of the section are the panoramic views from the area around Mt. Jergyle and, in spring, the wildflowers. In recent times there have been a number of serious bushfires in the Woomargama

forest area. *Track users are therefore requested to take particular care with fire using only the constructed fireplaces or gas stoves. All fire bans must be strictly observed. Walkers should also be aware that during the bushfire danger period the Track may be closed to protect life and property.*

The trackhead at Woomargama has been named after Samuel Bollard, one of the six assigned men who accompanied Hume and Hovell. He had arrived in the Colony in 1820 on board the "Earl St. Vincent". As his sentence was only seven years his offence could not have been very serious. He was granted a ticket of leave in 1825 not long after the expedition returned. In later life he reportedly managed Berry Jerry Station on the Murrumbidgee River and was also the publican of a hotel in Pictou.

The Hume and Hovell Expedition

By the 1820's various explorers had extended the boundaries of the Colony of New South Wales but the nature of the interior of south-eastern Australia was unknown. Governor Brisbane wanted an expedition mounted to investigate the quality of the land between Lake George and Westernport or Spencer Gulf on the southern coast of the continent. Hamilton Hume was recommended to him as a competent and experienced bushman and explorer, and he was joined by William Hovell, an Englishman who had been a ship's captain.

The journey commenced on 3rd October, 1824. The party comprised Hume and Hovell and six assigned men seeking tickets of leave. In order to reach Westernport, the explorers endeavoured to follow a south-westerly route on every possible occasion, travelling along the western edge of the Great Dividing Range and over the plains toward what would become Albury.

After ingeniously crossing the Murray River by building a raft using a tarpaulin, they continued on, reaching Port Phillip on 16th December, 1824, at the present site of Geelong. The poor state of their provisions forced them to set out on the return journey almost immediately.

They arrived at Hume's outstation near Lake George on 18th January, 1825, completing one of the Colony's most significant explorations. They had travelled more than 1900 kilometres on foot in only sixteen weeks, and in doing so had discovered some of the most fertile lands on the continent.

The Governor, who was under instruction to expand the boundaries of the colony, was able to exploit the achievements of the small party, and settlement quickly followed.



11th-13th November 1824

On Thursday the 11th of November, the explorers descended along a rocky spine, travelling north-west. They rested from the worst heat of the day beside Lankeys Creek. They were constantly plagued by flies and mosquitoes, making it impossible to sleep.

After crossing, they travelled about seven miles in the late afternoon through what Hovell described in his journal as, '*... pleasant forest where the grass (was) very good as also the water ...*'. They camped at Upper Wantagong, north-east of Mount Pleasant.

On Friday the 12th, to their relief, the numbers of flies and mosquitoes began to decrease. The country they passed through was significantly flatter than it had been in the preceding week. In the evening they camped to the north-west of Mount Pleasant, quite close to Woomargama.

On the 13th, they continued to the west-south-west, and after an uneventful day camped near Tabletop, which they named Battery Mount '*... from its exact resemblance to a fortification Bullwarks, plat Form and the short trees, or Bushes, here and there growing, appearing like Men Standing on the top of a wall.*'

History and Points of Interest

Before European settlement, the area between the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers was populated by Aborigines of the Wiradjuri tribe.

Their food came primarily from rivers and streams, and the Bogong Mountains to the east of Blowering Dam.

To control the food supply from the rivers and streams, the Aborigines built a complex system of fish baulks, which effectively fenced off sections of the rivers from their tributaries. This prevented the larger fish which bred in the rivers from mingling with and devouring the smaller varieties which bred in the upper reaches and streams.

In early summer, many tribes including the Wiradjuri made the annual exodus to the Bogong Mountains, the home of the Bogong Moth. The fat insect made a feast for the Aborigines, being in almost inexhaustible supply throughout the summer.

The earliest European explorers and settlers enjoyed a friendly relationship with the local tribes. However, Sir Thomas Mitchell's expeditions made them suspicious and hostile. He and his men were involved in incidents where Aborigines were attacked, and at times even killed.

In spite of this the Aborigines acted with great courage and humanity towards the European settlers during the severe flooding of the Tumut and Murrumbidgee Rivers in the 1840's, saving many lives.

The most prominent of the early European settlers in the Holbrook and Woomargama districts was the Reverend John Joseph Therry.

He held the post of Government Chaplain until 1826, when he was dismissed for his strong opposition to the policy of the Church of England towards the Roman Catholic Church. The Government offered him three hundred pounds to leave New South Wales, but he refused, doggedly continuing to minister to his parishioners.

In 1829, Governor Darling ordered him from his parsonage house. Therry refused to comply, and the Governor sensibly did not enforce his order. Because of his devotion, Therry was very popular, and the Governor had no desire to arouse public opinion against the colonial administration.

On February 1, 1837, a list of licences issued from October, 1836, for the purpose of grazing stock was published in the *Government Gazette*. Included was Lease 157, issued to Father Therry for Billybong Station, which included the site of Holbrook. The licence still exists, and gives this description of the run:

'Two free men, two bond, one overseer and wife and four children, with twelve acres in cultivation, eight hundred head of cattle and three stockhorses.'

In 1842, Samuel Bowler began grazing stock on Therry's run, near Ten Mile Creek, which is now Holbrook. Therry's foreman and close friend, John O'Sullivan, complained to the Crown Lands Commissioner, and Bowler was ordered to remove his stock. For the time being, he complied. However, in 1844 he took possession of Therry's heifer station on Ten Mile Creek. In spite of the protestations of O'Sullivan and overwhelming evidence in Therry's favour, Commissioner Bingham ruled for Bowler, who immediately erected yards on Therry's run. O'Sullivan suspected the Commissioner had been bribed. Perhaps significantly, the Colonial Secretary's records of the case cannot be found.



By way of contrast to the respectable Therry, the Holbrook district was one of the favoured areas of operation of the notorious bushranger William Moran, also known as Sydney Native, Sydney Bill, and Dan Morgan.

In 1863, Morgan began bushranging in the Holbrook-Tabletop district. On June 17, he robbed three men at Walla Walla. On June 18, he stole two horses from a group of boys between Ten Mile Creek and Cookardinia. In July, he stole two horses and a gold watch. He also bailed up Wallandool Station on Billabong Creek, stealing two more horses, two guns and two saddles.

On August 20, he and an accomplice held up Mr Henry Baylis, the Magistrate from Wagga Wagga, on the Urana Road. Although Morgan took nothing, Baylis pursued him with a party of troopers. On the 26th, they found Morgan's hideout: he was not there, so they deployed in the scrub and waited. At 7.30 pm, Baylis heard what sounded like a footfall, and stood up, whereupon he was fired on. A shot from Morgan's accomplice struck his thumb, and deflected through his shoulder. A second shot, fired by Morgan at close range, burned his eyebrows and whiskers, but fortunately missed his head. The bushrangers escaped in the darkness.

In 1864, Morgan's activities intensified. On June 19 at Round Hill Station he wounded one man and accidentally killed another, and on June 27, he killed a policeman near Tumbarumba. This report appeared in *The Ovens and Murray Advertiser* on June 30:

'Sergeant Maginnerty and a trooper Churchley, returning to Tumbarumba, near Coppabella overtook Morgan on the road. Not suspecting him to be in the district, Sergeant Maginnerty cantered up alongside him, when Morgan said, 'You are one of those bloody wretches looking for bushrangers', and he at the same time pulled out his revolver and shot the sergeant in the breast.'

Early in September, Morgan badly wounded a policeman at a camp on the road to Sydney: the man later died. In 1865, suspecting a man of being a police spy, he shot him in the groin and left him in agony.

On April 9, 1865, Morgan was himself killed, shot in the back while leaving the Peechelba homestead, north of Wangaratta.

Woomargama State Forest

In 1975, the Dora Dora and Tipperary State Forests were revoked, and the area returned to the New South Wales Department of Lands.

In 1985, the situation altered because of the disastrous bushfires that decimated the area. The then Premier decided that about 29,000 hectares should be gazetted as the Woomargama State Forest.

More than 30 kilometres of the Track passes through the Woomargama State Forest with Tin Mines campsite located not far from Mt. Jergyle.

This part of the route, especially from Mt. Jergyle and North Lookout, affords expansive views of the surrounding countryside. Walkers will be able to see the Australian Alps to the south-east, the Murray River to the south, Hume Weir to the south-west, Tabletop Mountain to the west, and almost the entire section of country traversed by Hume and Hovell from the 9th to the 14th of November, 1824, to the north.

References

Morgan by Margaret Carnegie. Hawthorn Press, 1974.

Friday Mount by Margaret Carnegie. Hawthorn Press, 1973.

Hume and Hovell 1824 Ed. Alan E.J. Andrews. Blubber Head Press, Hobart, 1981.



Bushwalking Safety

Be adequately prepared for the seasonal climate. This area can be very cold in winter, and quite cold on summer nights, so warm (preferably woollen) and waterproof clothes and a good sleeping bag are essentials. Take a compass, the relevant topographic maps, matches in a waterproof container, and a groundsheet. It is advisable to walk in a group rather than alone and to stay together, walking at a steady pace governed by the slower members of the party and resting often.

Always be careful with the use of fire, particularly during the warmer months. Observe any fire bans that are in force and only use the fireplaces that are provided. Use small, dead, fallen timber and never set a fire against a tree or log. Do not leave a fire unattended and drown the fire before breaking camp.

Be aware of the dangers of exposure to cold and know how to deal with them. Observe track surroundings and markings as you walk and if you should get lost don't panic. **KNOW** the correct procedures and follow them. An excellent survival handbook, **Stay Alive** by Maurice Dunlevy, issued by the Australian Government Publishing Service should be part of the bushwalkers kit. It is easy to read, pocket sized and available at most centres distributing bushwalking information.

To Make the Walk More Enjoyable

- Wear strong comfortable walking shoes and thick woollen socks to give maximum comfort.
- Take a light raincoat and a warm pullover, as well as extra clothing for cold weather.
- Carry ample food, light in weight but nourishing.
- Use a comfortable rucksack.
- Plan well in advance and check your equipment (tents, etc.) thoroughly before you set out.

Estimate Your Walking Time

Allow an hour for each three kilometres plus an hour for every 300 metres of climbing. Then allow time for rests and about one hour for lunch. If there are children or older people in the group, allow a little more time.

Before You Leave

Let a reliable person know where you are going and when you expect to return.

Map References

- HOME FLAT 8326 — II — S
- LANKEYS CREEK 8426 — III — S
- NARRA NARRA 8326 — II — N

Further Information

Department of Lands,
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Brochure no. 10

November 1988



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